



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TO: All Planning and Development Services Department Customers

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION BULLETIN 156**
Clarification of the City's scope of permissible speakers and content
in the limited forum for: Over-the-Street Banner Signs in the City of
San Antonio

DATE: February 24, 2009

This information bulletin is intended to clarify and confirm the City's intent with regard to the scope of permissible speakers and content of speech in the limited forum for over-the-street banner signs in the City of San Antonio.

The City has an interest in maintaining the appearance of neutrality in the banner space due to the potential for public perception that the banners, having been approved for posting on property controlled by the City, received its support. It uses the correct First Amendment standard which allows a city to exclude speech based on content when it chooses to allow speech in spaces where speech was not traditionally permitted.

The City's objective is the consistent application of § 28-117 of the City Code to exclude content that displays arguments and/or positions on factious and/or partisan issues in the limited forum of temporary, over-the-street cloth banners. The Director of Planning and Development Services interprets § 28-117 consistently with the City's custom and practice of discouraging factious debate and controversy and reserves that space for the purpose of providing a low-cost venue for charitable and non-profit entities to promote and advertise their events and charitable drives.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this administrative ruling, please feel free to contact the Planning & Development Services Sign Section at (210) 207-8289 or the Development Services Manager at (210) 207-0159.